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BEFORE the Chemical Society, London, the following lectures will be given: December 6, "The Relation between Chemical Constitution and Physiological Action," Dr. F. L. Pyman; February 21, 1918, "Recent Studies on Active Nitrogen," Professor the Hon. R. J. Strutt; April 18, the Hugo Müller lecture, entitled "The Old and the New Mineralogy," Sir Henry A. Miers.

DR. RICHARD WEIL, professor of Experimental Medicine in Cornell Medical College, a major in the Medical Reserve Corps and chief of the medical staff of the Base Hospital at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Ga., died of pneumonia on November 19.

Nature states that in a private letter Dr. Paul Bertrand announces the death of his father, Professor C. E. Bertrand, the distinguished plant-anatomist and paleobotanist. Dr. Bertrand was professor of botany at Lille, and lived there for the last three years of his life under German rule. Under these difficult conditions, he was still able to carry on both his university courses and his private research, as long as his health permitted.

THE death is announced, on October 27, of Mr. Worthington G. Smith, of Dunstable, fellow of the Linnean Society, at eighty-two years of age and on October 24, at fifty-four years of age, of Mr. George T. Holloway, vice-president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, known as a consultant metallurgist and assayer.

MR. GEORGE CHARLES CRICK, assistant in the geological department of the British Museum, died on October 8, aged sixty-one years.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES AND NEWS

THE Probate Court has allowed the will of Mrs. Augusta E. Corbin, by the terms of which Boston University receives \$555,000.

EXTENSIVE additions are to be made to the laboratories of the department of chemistry of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Entirely new and complete laboratories will be constructed for quantitative analysis, for or-

ganic chemistry and for physical chemistry. Material enlargement will be provided for the food analysis and gas analysis laboratories, and new space assigned for lecture room and recitation room needs. The great increase in number of students entering for the course in chemical engineering has demanded these extensions. Work on the new construction will be started in March, 1918, at which time also ground will be broken for four new dormitories.

DR. F. L. PICKETT, formerly associate professor of taxonomy and ecology at the State College of Washington, has been made head of the department of botany at that institution to fill the vacancy in the department of botany made by the resignation of Dr. I. D. Cardiff.

PROFESSOR WALTER BURTON FORD has been promoted to a professorship of mathematics in the University of Michigan, and James Garret Van Zwaluwenburg to a professorship of roentgenology.

MR. GEO. E. CROFOOT has been promoted from instructor in mechanical engineering to assistant professor of mechanical engineering in the Towne Scientific School of the University of Pennsylvania.

MR. E. G. GAUL, M.Sc., lecturer in bacteriological chemistry at the University of Manchester, has been appointed part-time demonstrator in chemistry in the university department. Mr. G. Hickling, D.Sc., has been appointed reader in paleontology and in the absence of Professor Holland, acting director of the geological laboratories.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE MANUFACTURE OF OPTICAL GLASS IN AMERICA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: There is an obvious lesson of general interest and of importance in national welfare in the present situation concerning the manufacture of optical glass in this country. That lesson relates in principle to the injury to important manufacturing interests resulting from a large con-